



My Little Barn Owls

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Please read pages 2-3 for full details about the implementation of My Little Barn Owls Childcare 'Additional Services' charges which take effect on the 1st September 2017.

30-hour Early Education and childcare Entitlement

From September 2017, 3 to 4 year old of working parents will be eligible for 1140 hours of government-funded early education and childcare per year - the equivalent of just over 22 hours per week stretched over the 52 weeks, Please read page 3

about how we shall be providing the 30 hours at My Little Barn Owls.

Early Years Funding

We are delighted to inform parents that we will be offer the 30 hours of childcare from September 2017.

However Kirklees Council have decided to freeze the hourly funding amount received for each child in 2017 and in 2018 this will decrease by a further 3p per child, per hour. Also from September 2017, we will see decrease in our 2 Year Old Funding by 9p per child, per hour.

Sadly the bad news is that these rates will probably be frozen for all Early Years Settings in Kirklees until Childcare April 2020. Which means that with the annual increases in Living Wage rates, food and general running costs for the Early Years sector many settings will begin to charge parents for 'Additional Services' by the Early Years and 2 Year old funding for 2,3 and 4 years olds.

With this in mind we have however decided NOT to increase our fees in September 2017, but sadly we will not be able to offering our good will gesture of two weeks at half fees for

Additional Services

On the 1st December 2016 the Department of Education issued the following guidance on '**Additional Services**'.

"You should use government funding to provide high-quality, flexible early education and childcare. You **shouldn't** use this funding to cover the cost of consumable items, such as drinks, meals, nappies, or other additional services such as Visits and trips.

You can charge parents for additional items or services, but you mustn't make this compulsory for any parents taking up a publicly funded place for their child.

"From the 1st September 2017 there will an additional charge for consumables for the children attending for the 15 & 30 hours funding. However this is just to cover the costs for food consumables. Alternatively you can provide a pack lunch for your child.

For children attending the 15 hours **ONLY** funded sessions a packed lunch **MUST** be provided. Alternatively you can pay at the start for your child's session for the consumables provided that day. However please be advised that if payment is not made at the start of your child's session and a packed lunch is **NOT** provided, your child will not be able to attend their session.

30 Hour Early Education and Childcare

From September 2017, 3 and 4-year-olds of working parents will be eligible for 1140 hours of government-funded early education and childcare per year - the equivalent of just over 22 hours per week stretched over the 52 weeks, My Little Barn Owls

Who is eligible

The 30-hour entitlement is available to 3 and 4-year-olds of working parents who meet the earnings criteria. To qualify, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will need to earn, on average, at least the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage or national living wage per week which will be €120 per week from April 2017 for people aged 25 and over, and no more than £100,000 per year.

Self employed parents and parents on a zero hour contract will be eligible if they meet the average earnings criteria.

Families where one parent is not in paid employment or neither parent works will not be eligible. There are exceptions for parents who are on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption or sick leave.

Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold.

However, parents will be eligible where one parent is in receipt of benefits relating to caring responsibilities or has a disability and the other parent is working. Single parents who are disabled or have substantial caring responsibilities will not be eligible.

If parents are separated, eligibility requirements will apply to the parent with whom the child 'normally lives', and any partners of parents will also have to meet them.

Parents must apply for both the 30-hour entitlement or the Tax-Free Childcare scheme through a joint online system administered by HMRC, as the eligibility requirements for both schemes are the same. Parents will be required to reconfirm their eligibility every three months by making a declaration that they expect their earnings to fall within the required threshold. Parents who make inaccurate or dishonest declarations can be fined between €300 and £3000.



National Grace Period

When parents receive confirmation of their eligibility from HMRC, they will receive a code to give to My Little Barn Owls will then be required to confirm the validity of this code through the 'Providers Portal' of the Kirklees Funding. If a parent suddenly becomes ineligible they will not lose their childcare place immediately as there will be a national grace period to enable parents to retain their childcare place for a short period of around 3 to 4 months if they become ineligible for the 30-hour entitlement.

This will work the same way in every part of the country, and local authorities and providers will be able to use an online eligibility checker to determine how long the child can continue to receive a 30-hour place.

Any child who loses their eligibility for 30 hours will still be entitled to the universal 15-hour entitlement. The Government is also proposing that local authorities have the discretion to extend the grace period in exceptional circumstances, for example if the child's parent is the victim of domestic violence and has left their job and home to escape the situation.

More details about how the national grace period will work in practice will be available in the statutory guidance on the 30-hour entitlement, which is expected to be published by April 2017 and we will update parents should any of these details significantly change.



My Little Barn Owls extended entitlement?

The Department of Education would like parents to be able to access any funded hours between 6am and 8pm to provide greater flexibility for parents.

However there is no mandatory pattern of delivery set by the Department of Education and it will be up to settings themselves to decide when they offer parents funded hours. Settings can also decide how many funded hours they offer per week.

My Little Barn Owls has decided that as from 1st September 2017 that we shall be providing the Early Years and Extended Entitlement 'stretched' across the 52 weeks per year that we operate.

Unlike some other nurseries in the area we will still be offering places term-time only to parents who only wish to take up a funded place and also shift patterns .

This will mean that from September 2017 should a child wish to use their Early Years and Extended Entitlement here at My Little Barn Owls they will be able to claim 22 hours a week for the full 52 weeks a year which we are open.

For those parents wishing to access more flexible childcare provision suitable to most working parents we shall offer the following attendance patterns:-

A minimum of three 10 hour days bookable between 7 am and 6 pm per day. e.g. 7 am 5pm, 7:30am till 5:30pm or 8am till 6pm, Mondays to Fridays.

This equals 22 funded hours a week with an additional charge for the remain 8 hours (full day session and the 'Additional Service' of £4.50 This is only charged for 2 days as the 3rd day is only part funded so there will be no charge for consumables.

Alternatively you can provide a packed lunch.

For those parents wishing to access shorter 'sessional' flexible childcare provision suitable to some working parents we shall offer the following attendance patterns:-

A minimum of five, 5 hour sessions bookable between 7am and 6pm per day. e.g. 7 am - 12pm, 8am -1pm, 9am till 2pm or 1pm - 6pm with an 'Additional Service' (price depending on session booked, see page 1).

Alternatively you can provide a packed lunch.

For those parents wishing to access a **100% free space** without our 'Additional Service' charge. We shall be offering;

Non Stretched: 15/30 Hours per week (Term Time only)

- For 30 hours **ONLY** - 8:45am to 11:45am then 12:45pm-3:45pm Monday to Friday (6 hours x 5 days.)
- For 15 hours **ONLY** - 8:45am to 11:45am then 1pm till 3pm (5 hours x 3 days) or AM Session 8:30am -11:30am or PM Session 1pm till 3pm (3 hours x 5 days.)

Stretched: 4.5 hours per week (all Year)

- For 30 hours **ONLY** - 9:00am to 11:30am then 13:00pm-3:00pm Monday to Friday (4.5 hours x 5 days.)

Stretched: 4.5 hours per week

For 15 hours **ONLY**

- 9am till 11:30am or 1pm till 3:30pm Monday to Friday (2.5 hours x 5 days.).
- 9:00am - 11:00am then 1pm - 3pm (4hrs hours x 3 days).
- 8:45am till 11:45am then 1pm - 3:30pm Monday to Friday (5.5 hours x 2 days) Monday to Friday.





Tax-Free Childcare: 10 things parents should know!

Tax-Free Childcare will be available to around 2 million households to help with the cost of childcare, enabling more parents to go out to work, if they want to, to provide greater security for their families.

1. You'll be able to open an online account

You'll be able to open an online account, which you can pay into to cover the cost of childcare with **Grafton Childcare**. This will be done through the government website, GOV.UK.

Tax-Free Childcare will be launched in March/April 2017. The scheme will be rolled out gradually to families, with parents of the youngest children able to apply first.

You'll be able to apply for all your children at the same time, when your youngest child becomes eligible. All eligible parents will be able to join the scheme by the end of 2017.

2. For every 80p you or someone else pays in, the government will top up an extra 20p

This is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which gives the scheme its name, 'tax-free'. The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of €10,000 - the equivalent of up to €2,000 support per child per year (or €4,000 for disabled children).

3. To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each earning at least £115 a week and not more than £100,000 each per year

The scheme is designed to be flexible for parents if, for example, they want to get back to work after the birth of a child or work part-time.



4. Any eligible working family can use the Tax-Free Childcare scheme - it doesn't rely on employers offering it

Free Childcare doesn't rely on employers offering the scheme, unlike the current scheme Employer-Supported Childcare. Any working family can use Tax Free Childcare, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

5. The scheme will be available for parents who are self-employed

Self-employed parents will be able to get support with childcare costs in Tax-Free Childcare, unlike the current scheme (Employer-Supported Childcare) which is not available to self-employed parents. To support newly self-employed parents, the government is introducing a 'start-up' period. During this, self-employed parents won't have to earn the minimum income level.

The scheme will be available to parents on paid sick leave and paid and unpaid statutory maternity, paternity and adoption leave.

6. If you currently receive Employer Supported Childcare then you can continue to do so

You do not have to switch to Tax-Free Childcare if you do not wish to. Employer Supported Childcare will continue to run. The current scheme will remain open to new entrants until April 2018. Parents already registered by this date will be able to continue using it for as long as their employer offers it.

However, Tax-Free Childcare will be open to more than twice as many parents as Employer-Supported Childcare.

7. Parents and others can pay money into their childcare account as and when they like

This gives you the flexibility to pay in more in some months, and less at other times. This means you can build up a balance in your account to use at times when you need more childcare than usual, for example, over the summer holidays.

It's also not just the parents who can pay into the account - if grandparents, other family members or employers want to pay in, then they can.

8. The process will be as simple as possible for parents

The process will be as easy as possible for you. For example, you'll re-confirm your circumstances every 3 months using a simple online process; and there will be a simple log-in service where parents can view accounts for all of their children at once.

9. You'll be able to withdraw money from the account if you want to

If your circumstances change or you no longer want to pay into the account, then you'll be able to withdraw the money you have built up. If you do, the government will withdraw its corresponding contribution.

More information will be available ahead of the scheme being introduced so parents making childcare decisions are able to consider all their options.

10. If you would like to be kept up to date about the new Childcare Schemes which will be starting in 2017 follow this link.

<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcareschemes-interest/welcome>



Meals, Snacks and Drinks

All the drinks, breakfasts, am and pm snacks, cooked lunches, cooked dinners are covered by our '**Additional Services**' charge.

The charges are as follows:

Full Day Session is £4.50p

Am Session is £3.50p with breakfast or 2.50p without.

PM Session is £2.00p



Contracts

We know it all probably sounds complicated believe me it has taken us many hours to work out exactly what would be sustainable for My Little Barn Owls to provide in the long term in order to offer flexible family based childcare as we have now been doing for the last 3 years.

Over the next few weeks we shall be sending out news sets of contracts to ALL our parents and these will come into effect on the 1st September 2017.

If you would like to discuss them in more detail or let us know if you would like to increase your hours in September to reflect the additional support you may well be receiving once you become eligible for our 'Stretched' funding offer please let us know a.s.a.p. so that we are able to incorporate your request.